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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OF THE

Warrington Rural District Council

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WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1944.

Chairman:

Mr. E. R. E. THORNTON, J.P. .. Penketh.

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. J. J. P. PALIN .. .. Great Sankey.

Councillors:

Mr. T. FORSHAW, J.P.	Burtonwood.
Mr. H. B. WRIGHT, J.P.	Cuerdley.
Mr. W. H. COTTRELL	Poulton-with-Fearnhead.
Mr. A. S. BREWER	Rixton-with-Glazebrook.
Mr. J. C. WARBURTON	Croft.
Mr. E. SMETHURST, J.P.	Winwick (St. Oswalds).
Mr. R. K. WILSON	Winwick (Houghton).
Mr. R. RYDER	Woolston.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health .. .. Dr. R. W. ELDRIDGE.

Senior Sanitary Inspector .. .. Mr. W. E. BREEDS.
Resigned October, 1944.

Additional Sanitary Inspector .. Mr. W. A. MORRISON
Appointed Senior Sanitary Inspector October, 1944.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for the Year 1944 during which Dr. Eldridge was acting Medical Officer.

I am grateful to have had the valuable and willing co-operation of the Council Officials and Staffs.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JAS. CULLEN, L.R.C.P. & S., L.F.P.S.G., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

A very efficient scheme was evolved by Dr. Eldridge and there has been a marked improvement of the percentage of children immunised.

The children are treated at Welfare Centres and at clinics which are arranged and of which notice is sent to the parents or guardians.

It can also be carried out by their own Doctor and in all cases it is free of cost.

Medical practitioners and nurses at Welfare clinics and District nurses can, and do give most valuable assistance in the campaign of impressing Parents and Guardians with their great responsibility to see that their children are protected against this DEADLY INFECTION.

The loss of an unprotected child from Diphtheria can cause terrible though unavailing anguish. So many means are constantly being used to bring the great benefit of this simple and wonderful safeguard to the notice of the Public that Ignorance can no longer be pleaded for Neglect to take advantage of it.

The return to the Ministry of Health in January gave the following figures, viz.:—

Percentage of children immunised:—

Under 5 years	60 per cent.
Over 5 years	75 per cent.

The percentage of children immunised shews a satisfactory increase for the present year.

VACCINATION.

Out of a total of 431 births, the number vaccinated was 180—a percentage of just over 42.

This must be considered poor.

GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.

There was no serious epidemic during the year and the country has been very fortunate in that respect during all the War Years, particularly so on account of the very large withdrawals of Doctors from civilian life which could undoubtedly have had tragic results had there been visitations at all comparable to those of 1918 and 1919. The return of large numbers of Doctors to general practice before another winter is urgent. With regard to food supplies rationing has done good in many instances coupled as it has been with wartime allotments which have provided greatly increased supplies and consumption of vegetables and salads which must have increased the resistance to disease through vitamins, iron, etc. For these reasons it is a pity to hear of allotments being given up this Autumn and those contemplating doing so should be urged most strongly to continue at least for another year which portends the greatest shortage so far experienced in the general food supply.

1.—STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	22,840
Estimated population 1944	25,110
Number of inhabited houses	6,024
Rateable Value	£155,110 0 0
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£673 3 11

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	253	218	471
Illegitimate	18	10	28
Total	271	228	499
Still Births—Legitimate	7	6	13
Illegitimate	3	0	3
Total	10	6	16
Deaths	109	103	212
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Legitimate	14	4	18
Illegitimate	2	0	2
Total	16	4	20
Deaths from puerperal causes			3
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			9.6
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age			—
All infants per 1,000 live births			40.08
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births			38.21
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births			71.42

COMPARATIVE BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES FOR PAST 10 YEARS IN WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Birth Rate	13.0	16.1	14.6	18.3	17.0	19.2	20.2	18.5	20.14	22.77
Death Rate	10.9	10.4	9.7	9.3	7.8	10.1	8.9	8.9	10.15	9.6
Infant Mortality Rate	60	51	49	69	54	38	60	42	65	40.08

GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Staff of Public Health Department:—

Medical Officer of Health (part-time)
R. W. Eldridge, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.A, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector to October 8th
W. E. Breeds, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent promoted to Chief Sanitary Inspector from October
W. A. Morrison, M.R.S.I.

2. Laboratory Facilities :—

Liverpool University and County Analyst, Preston.

Ambulance Facilities :—

For Infectious cases—Warrington C.B. and Newton-le-Willows U.D.C.

For Non-Infectious cases—Warrington C.B., Newton-le-Willows U.D.C. for Burtonwood and Winwick.

District Nursing Associations.

Whole time District nurses are employed by four District Nursing Associations serving the area. All the Associations are affiliated to the County Nursing Association and Midwifery cases are undertaken.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The following Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are available for residents in the area.

Burtonwood—Church Hall, Thursday, 10—12 a.m.

Penketh and Great Sankey—Methodist School, Penketh, Monday, 1.30—3.30 p.m.

Poulton and Woolston—Padgate Methodist School, Wednesday, 1.30—3.30 p.m.

Rixton-with-Glazebrook—Longfield Lodge, Cadishead, Irlam Hall, Cadishead, Alternate Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.

Wartime Nurseries.

Two Nurseries are provided by the County Council at Marina Avenue, Great Sankey and Padgate Lane, Padgate.

Hospitals Serving The District.

The hospitals serving the district for cases of Infectious Disease are the Warrington Isolation and the Newton-le-Willows Isolation Hospitals.

The principal hospitals for general cases are the Warrington Infirmary and the Warrington Borough General Hospital.

HOUSING.

The continued scarcity of labour and materials has everywhere been a very severe handicap to the carrying out of repairs to defective property and has stood as a sound reason for failure to effect even urgent improvements by good landlords and no doubt has been exaggerated as an excuse in some instances.

It is now becoming even more apparent that there must be a considerable interval of time before the demolition of unfit property can be tackled.

The provision of accommodation for over 200 evacuees aggravated the housing problem.

The comprehensive housing survey required by the Ministry of Health cannot proceed satisfactorily with existing staff as this work alone would fully occupy the time of one Inspector and a clerk to deal with about 1,500 houses per annum.

No action was taken under the Housing Act 1936, all cases being dealt with by Sections under the Public Health Act 1936.

Number of Informal notices	97
Number of Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act 1936	8

A considerable number of minor repairs were referred direct to the Owners or Agents by telephone or personal visits and as these have in all cases been carried out no further action was necessary. These repairs are not listed in the schedule above.

Number of Informal notices served under Sections 45 and 75	305
Number of Formal notices served under Sections 45 and 75	61

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied by Warrington and Liverpool Corporations to the bulk of the area.

In isolated cases water is obtained from a private or public well. In parts of Rixton, Glazebrook and Burtonwood the mains supply is not sufficient or constant.

The number of wells still in regular use in the area is 29, and occupants of 55 houses use the water supplied day by day.

Drainage and Sewerage.

In the parish of Burtonwood sewage is treated at a disposal works by precipitation and willow beds.

In other parishes septic tanks only are in use. A comprehensive scheme for the whole of the district is required if progress is to be made in Public Health.

Rivers and Streams.

Many of the rivers and streams in the district are badly polluted with domestic sewage in spite of the fact that septic tanks are built for all new property. Pollution can only be eradicated by a comprehensive sewerage scheme in the area.

Closet Accommodation.

The number of pail closets in the district is approximately 1,350 and there are still a few middens in use in isolated properties. The percentage of water closets for the area is now approximately 77 per cent.

Public Cleansing.

Dry house refuse is collected by direct labour and by contractors. One motor vehicle owned by the Council collects dry refuse once per fortnight in the Parishes of Rixton-with-Glazebrook, Woolston, Winwick and Burtonwood. Refuse is collected by a motor vehicle owned by a contractor for the Parishes of Sankey, Penketh and Poulton-with-Fearnhead. The refuse in Croft and Cuerdley is collected by horse drawn vehicles.

All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at sites in Sankey, Burtonwood, Winwick, Croft, Woolston and Rixton.

Pail contents are collected weekly by direct labour in the Parishes of Rixton-with-Glazebrook, Woolston, Poulton-with-Fearnhead and Winwick. The remaining Parishes are dealt with by contractors using horse drawn vehicles supplied by the Council.

The disposal of pail contents takes place at farms and on agricultural land.

Cesspools are emptied by hand, in some cases by direct labour and in others by the owners of the property.

It would be to the advantage of the district if all sanitary pails and dustbins were owned and supplied by the Council as the existing method of procuring sound receptacles by means of serving notices under the Public Health Act 1936 is far too slow. Nuisances are allowed to exist for several weeks, which should be abated at once.

SALVAGE.

The salvage of various materials has proceeded as satisfactorily as may be expected where refuse collection is dealt with by contractors in the most populated parishes.

The following table shows the amount of salvage collected.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	Value £	s.	d.
Paper	147	15	1	933	17	2
Cartons	Large 4556					
	Small 5737					
	Total 10,293			161	14	2
Iron	1	2	0	1	3	9
Rags		9	1	3	7	0
Rubber	1	15	0	4	8	6
Bones		11	1½	2	14	0
Wood Wool	2	1	2	24	18	0
Total weight	153	14	1½	£1,137	3	7

FACTORIES.

The number of premises registered under the Factories Act 1937 is 36.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Some inspections of dairy farm premises were carried out but due to insufficient staff it has not been possible to do as much of this class of work as one would like.

Generally the condition of the premises was fair but there are still some shippons which are not of a satisfactory structural standard.

Number of Producers registered	65
Number of Retail Dairymen registered	30
Number of Producers of Accredited milk	15
Number of Bacteriological samples taken	14
Number of Samples unsatisfactory	4
Number of Samples examined for T.B. Bacilli	11
Number of Samples found to contain T.B. Bacilli	—

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Number of persons licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested milk	1
Number of persons licensed to sell Pasteurised milk	2
Number of Supplementary Licences	4

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938.

Five animals were detained and slaughtered under the provision of this Order.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Owing to the centralization of slaughtering during the War, no slaughterhouses are in use in this area, all animals being slaughtered in Warrington.

The number of licenced slaughtermen is now 10.

A number of pigs were killed for family use and in the majority of cases these were inspected.

The following amounts of food were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption, but in some cases quantities were salvaged for use as animal food stuffs by the Ministry of Food (Salvage Division).

Miscellaneous tinned food stuffs	133	
Miscellaneous jars of food	4	
Oranges	385	lbs.
Ginger	6	lbs.
Onions	77	lbs.
Butter	38½	lbs.
Oatmeal	84	lbs.
Lemons	101	lbs.
Cheese	7½	lbs.
Bacon	50	lbs.
Beef	60	lbs.
Raisins	34	lbs.
Vinegar	1	pint
Soya bean flour	560	lbs.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

No samples were taken by the County Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Samples of Soya bean flour which had been stored adjacent to carbolic soap were analysed and found to contain 5 parts per million of phenols expressed as carbolic acid. This contamination was sufficient to render it unpalatable and the whole quantity of Soya bean flour was sent for salvage to the Ministry of Food.

RODENT CONTROL.

There have been relatively few complaints of infestation by rodents which were not within the jurisdiction of the War Agricultural Executive Committee. Complaints from farms or premises adjoining agricultural land are referred to the Committee and are dealt with by their operatives.

All other premises are dealt with by private operators or by direct action on the lines advocated by the Sanitary Inspector.

The sewers in the area were dealt with by placing poisoned baits in each manhole but although considerable time and energy were taken up by this work the results showed that only 1 per cent of the manholes were infested.

TUBERCULOSIS.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
20	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
35	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
45	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
65 and over ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	9	4	4	1	5	2	2	–
Grand Totals ..	13		5		7		2	

The following notifications of Infectious Disease were received during the Year viz.:—

	District	County Mental Hospital Winwick	Non-civilian
Scarlet Fever	100	0	4
Diphtheria	10	0	0
Measles	299	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	63	0	0
Pneumonia	13	5	5
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	0	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	5	1
Erysipelas	6	3	1
Malaria	0	0	24
Dysentery	0	7	2
	499	20	41

80 cases were admitted to Hospitals. No deaths.

SCABIES.

One hundred and sixty-seven patients have been treated by the Warrington Borough Authorities by arrangement.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—1944.

DISEASE	Totals all ages	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Age not known	Removals
Scarlet Fever	100	...	1	3	7	8	46	19	8	6	1	...	...	1	53
Diphtheria	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	7
Measles	299	10	19	41	40	38	140	6	...	3	...	...	...	2	4
Whooping Cough	63	3	10	15	12	2	20	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...
Pneumonia	13	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	2	2	4	1	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	3	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	5	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	3
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	6	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	1
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	....	...	...

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT—1944.

Causes of Death (civilians only).	Males	Females
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0
Cerebro spinal fever	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	2
Other forms—Tuberculosis	2	0
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0
Influenza	1	1
Measles	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and encephalitis	0	0
Acute influenzal encephalitis	0	1
Cancer, all forms	8	18
Diabetes	1	1
Intracranial vascular lesions	9	11
Heart disease	31	26
Other diseases circulatory system	1	2
Bronchitis	10	8
Pneumonia	3	3
Other respiratory diseases	0	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	0
Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	0
Appendicitis	0	0
Other digestive diseases	2	1
Nephritis	1	3
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	0	3
Other maternal causes	0	0
Premature birth	4	0
Congenital malformation	3	3
Suicide	0	0
Road Traffic Act	3	2
Other violent causes	6	5
All other causes	14	11
	109	103